पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Constitution of CentraL Pollution Control Board

215. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board has proposed that the Board be replaced by a new integrated body with wider mandate and that the powers to shut polluting units as under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 be transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the new body;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether there is any accountability of the State Pollution Control Boards in enforcing uniform standards relating to sewage and effluents etc. and taking time-bound action against erring units including their closure; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A proposal for renaming of Central and State Pollution Control Boards with greater mandate has been received and is being included as an agenda item for the meeting of Environment Ministers of the States. The State Pollution Control Boards are the enforcing agencies for the standards relating to sewage and effluents etc. in their respective States and to take time-bound action against erring units under the Water Act and the Air Act.

(d) Does not arise.

Environmental Damage to Green Powai Hills, Bombay

216. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Indian Express of 11th November, 1993, to the effect that the vast environmental damage done to the once lush green Powai Hills near Bombay by continous quarrying;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a study of the same;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Central Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The State Government has initiated action to close down the quarries in Powai Hills, Bombay.

Preserving and Checking of Genetic Material

nented in various States?

217. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news analysis which appeared in the Economic Times of 29 December, 1993 on India's failure to formulate an effective strategy, including a legislation for enumerating, cataloguing, preserving and checking of smuggling of its genetic material;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the reasons for not implementing the same even after more

than one and a half years of signing the Convention on Bio-diversity at Rio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India, alongwith 156 other countries, signed the Convention on Biological Diversity during the UNCED Earth Summit held at, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June, 1992. After signature, a number of countries including India have ratified this Convention which has come into force about two months ago, Action is under consideration to prepare for legislation for the conservaiton of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of technologies taking into account the public interest.

Allotment of Waste Lands

218. SHRI M.A. BABY:
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that village or town waste lands are allotted to persons who apply to bring out afforestation;

(b) what are the norms that arc followed in these allotments by the authorities;

(c) whether Government provide any subsidy or assistance for the encouragement of the same;

(d) if so, what is the minimum amount and maximum amount; and

(e) the total number of acres brought under this scheme afforestation in the entire country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Afforestatlon'Scheme

219. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI M.A. BABY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms recommended by Government in the afforestation scheme;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to prohibit the public from throwing of dead bodies in the Ganges;

(c) whether Pollution Control officers have taken precautions to put the violators before a court of law; and

(d) if not, what action has been taken so far or would be taken in the near future to avert such pollution emmiting acts by individuals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Under the 20 Point Programme, afforestation and tree planting activities arc undertaken annually keeping in view the availability of funds. In undertaking these activities, special attention is given to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as also the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis and Western Ghats. Considerations of adopting appropriate moisture and soil conservation measures, integrated watershed development, planting of indigenous species producing fuelwood, fodder and other non-timber forest produce for the local village communities, adoption of appropriate technologies for regeneration of degraded forest areas, creation of general awareness and promoting the involvement of the rural people etc. are kept in view while designing and